

What is claimed is:

1. An implant comprising:
a load bearing surface, said surface comprising a body portion and an insert.
2. The implant according to claim 1, wherein body portion comprising a recess and said insert is at least partially disposed in said recess.
3. The implant according to claim 2, wherein said recess comprises an undercut and said insert comprises a protrusion at least partially received in said undercut.
4. The implant according to claim 1, further comprising a mounting feature.
5. The implant according to claim 1, wherein said load bearing surface comprises said body portion and a plurality of inserts.
6. The implant according to claim 1, wherein said body portion comprises a metallic material.
7. The implant according to claim 1, wherein said insert comprises a polymeric material.

8. The implant according to claim 7, wherein said insert comprises a hydrogel material.
9. The implant according to claim 1, said implant providing a replacement articular surface comprising at least a portion of said load bearing surface.
10. The implant according to claim 9 wherein said load bearing surface provides said replacement articular.
11. An implant comprising:
an implant body portion comprising at least one recess; and
an insert disposed in said recess;
said implant comprising a load bearing surface, said load bearing surface comprising a portion of said body portion and a portion of said insert.
12. The implant according to claim 11, wherein said body portion comprises a metallic body.
13. The implant according to claim 11, wherein said insert comprises a polymeric material.
14. The implant according to claim 13, wherein said insert comprises a hydrogel material.

15. The implant according to claim 14, wherein said insert comprises polyvinyl alcohol hydrogel.
16. The implant according to claim 11, wherein said recess comprises an undercut and said insert comprises a protrusion adapted to be at least partially received in said undercut.
17. The implant according to claim 11, wherein said recess comprises an annular recess and said insert comprises an annular insert.
18. The implant according to claim 11, wherein said body portion comprises a first member comprising an opening and a second member, said recess at least partially defined between said first and second members, said insert disposed at least partially between said first and second members.
19. The implant according to claim 11, said body portion comprising a plurality of recesses, and said implant comprising a plurality of inserts respectively disposed in said plurality of recesses.
20. The implant according to claim 11, wherein said body portion comprises a mounting feature.

21. The implant according to claim 11, wherein said body portion comprises a rim extending away from said load bearing surface, said rim comprising at least one radial slot.
22. A method of producing a composite implant comprising:
providing an implant body comprising a recess, said recess including an undercut;
providing an insert adapted to be at least partially received in said recess, said insert comprising a protrusion adapted to be received in said undercut; and
installing said insert in said recess.
23. The method according to claim 22, wherein providing said insert comprises molding said insert.
24. The method according to 23, wherein molding said insert comprises injection molding.
25. The method according to claim 22, wherein providing said insert comprises cutting said insert from a body of stock.
26. The method according to claim 22, wherein installing said insert in said recess comprises positioning said protrusion at least partially in said undercut.
27. The method according to claim 22, wherein said implant body comprises a first member and a second member, said first and second members defining a recess therebetween.

28. The method according to claim 27, wherein installing said insert in said recess comprises disposing said insert between said first and second members.

29. A method for producing a composite implant comprising:
providing an implant body comprising a recess, said recess including an undercut;
introducing a polymeric material into said recess; and
at least partially solidifying said polymeric material.

30. The method according to claim 29, wherein introducing a fluid polymeric material comprises injecting a molten polymeric material into said recess.

31. The method according to claim 29, further comprising providing a mold portion adjacent said recess, thereby defining a molding cavity defined by said recess and said mold portion.

32. The method according to claim 29, wherein introducing said polymeric material comprises introducing a powdered polymeric material, the method further comprising heating said polymeric material.